Marahmat Department.—The expenditure incurred by the Marahmat Agencies was Rs. 3,94,998 and was distributed as follows:—

Communications	....	Rs.	17,915.
Buildings	....	,,	2,54,459.
Irrigation	....	,,	12,075.
Miscellaneous	....	,,	82,741.
Establishment	....	,,	27,808.

Under the head of "Communications" undertaken by the Marahmat Department during the year, the construction of the Perumala-Kandala road in the Cardamom District may be mentioned as the most important work.

The construction of the satroms at Suchindram and Police buildings at Oodumpanshola and Munaar are some of the important works under the head of "Buildings" which were in progress or completed during the year. The conversion of the old Taluk Cutcherry building at Ettumanur into a satrom was also sanctioned in the year.

Under the head "Miscellaneous" the following are some of the large works undertaken by the Marahmat Department:—

The restoration of the Teppakolem tanks at Padmanabhapuram, Parakkay and Tirupadisaram, the draining and cleaning of the Sreevarahom tank at the Capital and the Mullakkal tank at Alleppey and the improvement of the tank at Kadinankulam.

The completion of certain wells in the Southern Division partially sunk by private individuals and the construction of some new ones were also taken in hand by the Department.

Travancore Branch, S. I. Railway.—The Railway line from Shencottah to Punalore was opened on the 26th November 1904. Through communication was thus established between Tinnevelly and Quilon, affording greater facilities for traffic. The guaranteed interest paid by the State during the year amounted to Bh. Rs. 2,78,157–10–1, the rate of interest being $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

16. **Anchal.**—The number of Anchal offices remained the same as in the previous year *viz.* 150, while that of letter boxes rose from 179 to 185. Nearly 55 lakhs of covers, official and private, passed through the Anchal offices during the year. It is satisfactory to note that the Anchal Hundi system is becoming more and more popular, nearly 73,000 hundis having been issued during the year. To afford additional facilities to the public the postage on parcels was reduced from 4 to 3 chuckrams for the first 20 tolas and 2 chuckrams for every additional 20 tolas.

17. **Devaswoms.**—The management of the Devaswom Department which is one of the most important departments in the State and on which between 6 and 7 lakhs of rupees are annually spent was one of the subjects that received considerable attention during the year under report. Two measures of importance were adopted by Government which are calculated to remove the existing abuses and place the management of these ancient institutions on a satisfactory footing. You will doubtless have noticed from the several proceedings of Government recently published in the Gazette how complicated the question of purificatory ceremonies in temples has become, whether viewed from the standpoint of public finances or of private rights. Various issues have been raised, particularly

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